(b) whether the said assistance has been released and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any representation has been received from the State Government for early release of the fund and also to make provision for Rs. 120 crores in the Annual Plan for 2006-2007 as incentives to sugarcane growers of the State and to bring more areas under sugarcane cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, to increase production and productivity of sugarcane, a Cenrally Sponsored Scheme under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture is implemented in the various State including the State of Punjab. Under this schemes financial assistance on various inputs, such as seed multiplication, implements, drip irrigation, heat treatment plant and transfer of production technology through demonstrations and trainings are provided to different States.

Demand and supply gap in cereals

2897. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand and supply gap of cereals in the country is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the demand and supply of cereals during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether a study has shown that the production of cereals and demand of cereals may see a huge gap keeping in view the fact that India will have the youngest population in future; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to increase the production of cereals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Based on the National Sample Survey Organisation's 60th Round (2004) Consumer Expenditure Survey, the assessed demand (consumption requirement of cereals for the country,

including seed, feed and wastage) *vis-a-vis* the supply (domestic production) of cereals during 2003-04 to 2005-06 is shown in the following table:

(Million Tonnes)

Cereals	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Production/Supply	198.28	185.23	196.09
Consumption/Demand	168.48	171.07	173.64

*3rd advance estimates

As may be seen from the above table, production of cereals in more than the demand during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in its report titled "2020 Global Food Outlook" mentioned that India would shift from near self-sufficiency under the baseline scenario (scenario prevailing in and around 1997) to imports of 30 million tonnes of cereals in 2020.

(d) For increasing the production of cereals, the Integrated Cereal Development Programme for cropping system based areas (Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals) which has since been subsumed under Macro Management Programme since 04.10.2000 is implemented in different States of the country. Under the Scheme, the assistance is provided for demonstration on improved package of practices including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), distribution of quality seeds for improved varieties/ hybrids, farm implements and water saving devices like sprinkler irrigation system. Besides, frontier crop production and protection technologies and newly released promising varieties and hybrids are also popularized through front line demonstrations at farmers field under direct funded component of Macro Management Programme.

As per National Agriculture Policy, special efforts are made to raise the productivity and production of crops to meet the increasing demand for food generated by demographic pressures and raw materials for expanding agro-based industries. A regionally differentiated stategy is pursued, taking into account the agronomic, climatic and environmental conditions to realise the full growth potential of every region.